

## **Framework for Connecticut Schools During the 2020-2021 Academic Year**

### **Guiding Principles:**

- 1. Safeguarding the health and safety of students and staff;**
- 2. Allowing all students the opportunity to return into the classrooms full time starting in the fall;**
- 3. Monitoring the school populations and, when necessary, potentially cancelling classes in the future to appropriately contain COVID-19 spread;**
- 4. Emphasizing equity, access, and support to the students and communities who are emerging from this historic disruption;**
- 5. Fostering strong two-way communication with partners such as families, educators and staff; and**
- 6. Factoring into decisions about reopening the challenges to the physical safety and social-emotional well-being of our students when they are not in school.**

**We are recommending the following to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases in our workplaces and schools:**

- **Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.**
- **Avoid close contact with people who are sick.**
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.**
- **You should stay home when you are sick.**
- **Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.**
- **Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.**
- **Obtain a flu vaccine.**

- **Maximize social distancing---including separating desks as far as possible and keeping apart while students and staff are in gymnasiums and auditoriums.**
- **Wear face coverings (cloth) that completely cover the nose and mouth while in the building. Students should have frequent breaks for the removal of masks is acceptable.**
- **Face coverings will be mandatory for bus drivers, students and staff, with the exception of medical exemptions and when teachers are providing instruction. Teachers will have to increase their distance from students during instructional time.**
- **Cohort classes (when feasible) so they can work together and keep cross-contamination low. This is encouraged for it would keep the same group of students together throughout the school day and prevent any potential spread of the virus to one classroom.**
- **Avoid sharing electronic devices, toys, books and other games or learning aids.**
- **Stagger and disinfect close communal spaces such as dining halls and playgrounds if possible.**
- **Restrict mixing between groups of students.**

- **Restrict nonessential visitors, volunteer and activities involving other groups.**
- **Cancel all field trips, inter-group events and extracurricular activities.**
- **Create social distance between children on school buses—for example, seating children one child per seat, every other row.**
- **If a cafeteria or group dining room is typically used, serve individually plated meals, meals in classrooms instead.**
- **Place seats/desks at least 6 feet apart.**
- **Turn desks to face in the same direction (rather than facing each other) or have students sit on only one side of tables, spaced apart.**
- **Post signs on how to stop the spread of COVID-19, properly wash hands, promote everyday protective measures, and properly wear a face covering.**
- **Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible such as by opening windows and doors.**
- **Ensure that all water systems and features are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown to minimize the risk of Legionnaire's disease and other diseases associated with water.**